

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00792 050943Z

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05

DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 /090 W

-----051028Z 064434 /21

R 050822Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7201

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0792

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH ENGR IN

SUBJ: TARAPUR FUEL STORAGE

REF: STATE 71989

1. CONGEN CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REFTTEL TO SETHNA AND SHAH TODAY, APRIL 1, AND DISCUSSED RELATED PROBLEM OF CONTRACTOR'S LIABILITY WITH THEM.

2. BOTH WERE GLAD TO SEE THAT THE USG IS MOVING, BELATELY IN THEIR VIEW, TO HELP IN WHAT THEY REGARD A MOST ACUTE SPENT FUEL STORAGE PROBLEM. THEY DOUBTED THAT MUCH ADDITIONAL STORAGE SPACE COULD BE GAINED FROM RERACKING, BUT WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR EVEN TWO YEARS ADDITIONAL SPACE, IF COSTS ARE AT ALL REASONABLE. WHEN CONGEN MENTIONED HIS PERSONAL HOPE THAT AS MUCH AS FIVE YEARS' GAIN MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, THEY SAID THAT THERE IS ALMOST NO HOPE FOR SUCH A LARGE ADVANTAGE. THEIR PESSIMISM SEEMED TO BE BASED LARGELY ON DOUBTS ABOUT LOAD-BEARING CAPABILITY OF EXISTING POOLS BUT ALSO REFLECTED DOUBT ABOUT LEAVING OLDER RODS IN A TEMPORARY POOL FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME BECAUSE OF DETERIORATION.

3. SETHNA SAID HIS OWN STUDY OF THE LOAD-BEARING CAPABILITY OF
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THE STORAGE POOLS IS NOT YET COMPLETE, BUT HE SAID THAT HE HAS COMPLETED A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE HEAT PROBLEM AND IS CONFIDENT IT CAN BE HANDLED EASILY AND AT LOW COST WITH HEAT EXCHANGERS. SHAH WAS GLAD THAT THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE STUDY EMPHASIZE THE FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING NEW RACKS UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN STUMPED BY THE PROBLEM OF INCREASING STORAGE CAPACITY OF THE POOLS WITHOUT EMPTYING THEM

BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF ANCHORING ADDITIONAL RACKS TO THE SIDES AND BOTTOM.

4. SETHNA INQUIRED ABOUT THE COST OF THE STUDY AND CONGEN AGREED THAT IT COULD GO INTO MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. SETHNA HOPED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ASKED TO SHARE IN THE STUDY COST AND CONGEN SAID THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTION TO ASK FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN FUNDING THE STUDY.

5. CONGEN SAID THAT THE CONTRACTOR HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF LIABILITY. AFTER DISCUSSING THIS MATTER AGAINST BACKGROUND OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT, BOTH SETHNA AND SHAH SAID THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE ABOUT ULTIMATE LIABILITY FOR USE OF ANY RESULT OF THE STUDY AT TARAPUR. THE INDIANS WOULD HAVE TO ASSURE THEMSELVES OF THE FEASIBILITY AND SAFETY OF ANY INSTALLATIONS ADDED TO TARAPUR AND WOULD OF COURSE TAKE THE CONSEQUENT RESPONSIBILITY IN TERMS OF LIABILITY. SHAH SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD NOT EXTEND TO ANY USE THAT THE CONTRACTOR MIGHT MAKE OF INFORMATION GAINED AT TARAPUR IN HIS OTHER WORK. THIS PHASE OF DISCUSSIONS CONCLUDED WITH BOTH SAYING THAT LIABILITY MIGHT SEEM TO BE A SMALL PROBLEM TO THEM AND ONE IN WHICH THEY COULD COOPERATE QUITE EASILY WITH US AS LONG AS THE CONTRACTOR LIMITED HIS REQUEST FOR RELIEF TO THE USE OF HIS STUDY RESULTS IN INDIA.

6. BOTH INDIAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO MOUNT THIS STUDY WOULD PROCEED SWIFTLY. THEY PROMISED TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED SCOPE OF THE STUDY PROMPTLY TO SEE WHETHER THEY WISHED TO ADD ADDITIONAL POINTS OR SEEK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLARIFICATION OF THE POINTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL.
COURTNEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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